News-item, "AIDS Scourge in Vijayawada"

65. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned, "AIDS Scourge in Vijayawada", which appeared in the Hindu, dated the 3rd September, 2002; and

(b) if so, whether Government have taken steps to check the spread of AIDS and educate the people about the seriousness of the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government of Andhra Pradesh has taken the following steps to check the spread of AIDS and educate the people about the seriousness of the situation:

(a) 126 targeted interventions are in place for high risk groups coverings commercial sex workers; slum dwellers; truckers; men having sex with men targeting a total population of 7,76,000.

(b) 88 Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STD) clinics are functioning for diagnosis and treatment of STDs.

(c) Condom promotion is being carried out through NGOs for targeted interventions, STD clinics, Primary Health Centres, sub centres and road side dabhas located along the highways. Social marketing of condoms also is being taken up by Hindustan latex.

(d) Voluntary Counselling and testing centres have been established in 88 teaching, and district hospitals.

(e) Extensive publicity campaigns have been taken up through electroic media, radio, wall paintings, glow signs, erection of hoardings along National Highway No. 5 to generate awareness about HIV/AIDS. Exhibitions were organized in 22,500 Gram Sabhas during Janma Bhoomi days along with folk art performance, street plans and mobile vans.

(f) School AIDS education programme has been launched in 11,464 high schools to cover 13 lakh students of the 9th and 10th class.

(g) University Talk AIDS programme has been taken by National Service scheme to cover five lakh college students in more than 100 colleges.

(h) Villagers talk AIDS programme has been undertaken by the Nehru Yuvak Kendras in 30 villages.

(i) For Prevention of Mother to Child Transmission of HIV services are being provided in 14 teaching hospitals since April 2002, and another 24 centres will start functioning from December 2002 in the district hospitals.

(j) Family Health Awareness Campaign is conducted once a year to create awareness about STDs and HIV is community and ways and means for their prevention and control.

(k) Blood Safety is being ensured with mandatory screening of every blood unit collected by blood banks for HIV, hepatitis B, Hepatitis C, Malaria and Syphilis. Voluntary blood donation is encouraged by involving NSS and National Cadet Corps.

(l) Intersectoral collaboration is ensured through making HIV/AIDS prevention as part of all departmental programme.

(m) 13 care and support centres are established in the state for counselling and attending to the medical needs of people living with HIV/AIDS.

Health schemes in Assam

66. SHRI DWIJENDRA NATH SHARMAH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Centrally-sponsored health schemes and programmes formulated and implemented in the State of Assam during the last three years;

(b) the details of funds allocated, released and the amount actually utilized in Assam during this period; and

(c) the details of achievements made in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) The Government is